

Appl. No. 10/536,972
AMENDMENT of March 19, 2009
Reply to Office Action of December 19, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of filling and dispensing an alcohol beverage from a bag contained in a container, the method comprising the steps of:

evacuating the container of air located between the container and the bag;

inflating the bag with an inert gas selected from gasses that do not adversely react with the beverage;

filling the inflated bag with the beverage;

venting the inert gas from the bag; and,

applying a gas under pressure into the container against the bag during beverage dispensing to facilitate dispensing of the beverage from the bag.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the inert gas is CO₂.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the beverage is beer.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the inert gas is vented from the bag during the step of filling the inflated bag with the beverage.

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9. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of inflating the bag inflates the bag to a volume corresponding to that of the container.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of inflating the bag brings the bag into contact with inside walls of the container.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the container is a beer keg that supports the bag relative thereto.
12. (Original) A method of filling an alcohol beverage into a bag contained in a container, the method comprising the steps of:
 - evacuating the container of air located between the container and the bag;
 - inflating the bag with an inert gas selected from gasses that do not adversely react with the beverage;
 - filling the inflated bag with the beverage; and,
 - venting the inert gas from the bag.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the step of evacuating the bag of air continues during the step of inflating the bag with an inert gas.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the inert gas is CO₂.

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15. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the beverage is beer.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the inert gas is vented from the bag during the step of filling the inflated bag with the beverage.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the step of inflating the bag inflates the bag to a volume corresponding to that of the container.
18. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the step of inflating the bag brings the bag into contact with inside walls of the container.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the container is a beer keg that supports the bag relative thereto.
20. (Original) A method of filling an alcohol beverage into a bag contained in a container having a valve system mounted with the bag and container, and the valve system has first, second and third valves, the method comprising the steps of:
 - evacuating the container of air located between the container and the bag by applying a vacuum to the container through the first valve;
 - inflating the bag through the second valve with an inert gas selected from gasses that do not adversely react with the beverage;

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filling the inflated bag with the beverage through one of the second and third valves; and,
venting the inert gas from the bag through another of the second and third valves.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of evacuating the bag of air continues during the step of inflating the bag with an inert gas.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the inert gas is CO₂.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the beverage is beer.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the inert gas is vented from the bag during the step of filling the inflated bag with the beverage.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of inflating the bag inflates the bag to a volume corresponding to that of the container.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the step of inflating the bag brings the bag into contact with inside walls of the container.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the container is a beer keg that supports the bag relative thereto.

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28-104. (Withdrawn)

105. (New) The method of Claim 12 wherein evacuating the container of air located between the container and the bag occurs prior to inflating the bag with an inert gas selected from gasses that do not adversely react with the beverage.